

REMARKS

Claims 15-38 are pending in the present application before this preliminary amendment as set forth above. By the amendment, claims 15, 22, 31 and 33 are amended.

A telephone conference was conducted with the Primary Examiner December 14, 2009. Among other things, the Primary Examiner proposed an Examiner's Amendment in which the limitation of "homo/" was removed from independent claims 15, 22, 31 and 33.

An Office Action was issued December 28, 2009, where the Primary Examiner rejected claims 15-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima (JP 2002-020576). Further, claims 15-38 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. However, the Primary Examiner indicated in the Office Action (Page 4) that *the claims would be allowable if "homo/" were removed from the claims.*

Applicant very appreciates the Primary Examiner's careful review of the present application, and proposal of the Examiner's Amendment.

In response, as set forth above, claims 15, 22, 31 and 33 have been amended for better form. Specifically, each of independent claims 15, 22, 31 and 33 has been amended to remove the limitation of "**homo/**", as suggested by the Primary Examiner. Accordingly, claims 15-38 are now allowable.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

It is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing Amendment and Response place this application in condition for allowance. If the Primary Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned at 404-495-3678.

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Respectfully submitted,
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